

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Ginny Finch" <Ginny.Finch@igate.fhwa.dot.gov>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 11:38 AM
Subject: I support video description

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "U'Ren, Michelle" <michelle.uren@med.va.gov>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 11:14 AM
Subject: I support descriptive video

It makes all the difference in the world to the visually impaired. I strongly encourage you to make the proper adjustments to include all citizens in the enjoyment of theater.

Michelle U'Ren -117V
2615 E. Clinton Avenue
Fresno CA 93703

Ph. 559-228-5398
Fax 559-228-6914

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Carolyn Yates" <cyates@repromail.repro.ohio-state.edu>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 11:01 AM
Subject: I support Video Description

RE: Docket # 99-339

TO: Secretary of FCC

I feel very strongly that the video description for the blind and visually impaired should be in place as planned with no further delays. People all over the country have been waiting since the issuance of the order to finally have access to television programming. I can't believe that an industry that professes to be so public minded and caring would be pulling such a delaying tactic.

Get on with what you know is right!

Carolyn J Yates
Customer Service Coordinator
2500 Kenny Road

Columbus, Ohio 43210
(614) 292-7412 office

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "John Harden" <jharden@gte.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 10:50 AM
Subject: I support video description

It really shouldn't be necessary for a tax paying citizen to say I support the right to access the same material that the sighted public takes for granted. It seems that some people think they know what all people need. Well, the truth is each of us is an individule and has different needs. Therefore, Descriptive audio has to be made available to all so each of us may choose wether or not to use it.

John Harden

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Richard Villa" <rvilla1@swbell.net>
To: <info@acb.org>
Cc: <rvilla1@swbell.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 1:10 PM
Attach: I Support video Description.doc
Subject: I support video description

Please find attached my letter to the FCC.

It is better to give than to receive. don't believe me, just ask a boxer.

Richard

2/26/02

Richard Villa
6003 Cougar Dr. Apt. C
Austin, TX 78745

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Secretary Caton,

I am writing you with regard to the FCC rules on video description, MM docket number 99-339. I request that the FCC press forward with plans to implement rules requiring broadcasters to provide video descriptions of television broadcasts commencing in April, 2002. Hearing-impaired United States citizens have enjoyed equal access to television via closed caption services for a generation without imposing an undue burden on television producers or broadcasters. The proposed description requirements are minimal in their impact as compared to those for closed captioning, so they should present even less of a burden on the television industry than that which is incident to the provision of captioning services.

The last-minute legal maneuvering of the cable, broadcast, and motion picture industry associations to get a suspension of the FCC rules lacks merit, and is a means of trying to stall compliance. The issues regarding video description were fully aired during the rule-making process, and the television industry has been given ample time to prepare to meet the modest level of described video programming mandated in the FCC rules. Blind and visually impaired television viewers have been kept in the dark long enough.

Respectfully

Richard Villa

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "SARAI DIANE BUCCIARELLI" <sdbuccia@samford.edu>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 8:21 PM
Subject: I support video discription

Hello:

I support video description services. These services will make gathering weather reports, special information, and general entertainment much easier to come by. Please support and continue to fight the stay that has just been announced.

Thank you,
Sarai Bucciarelli

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Tim Keenan" <tkeenan@student.umass.edu>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 1:10 AM
Subject: I Support Video Description

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554.

Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Sir:

I am a totally blind college student who has grown up in a time when T.V. has been an almost exclusively visual medium. Certainly, I could guess by sound cues what might be going on, but in far too many situations I am forced to sit back and smile and nod, having no idea what's making everyone else around me laugh hysterically, or draw in their breath in wonder. This situation occurs almost every day, and it leaves me out of a very important means of social interaction in this environment.

The FCC must recognize the this 11th-hour action by these broadcasting/motion picture groups as a last-ditch attempt to deny me and others like me the experience enjoyed by their sited audience. These big guns might have billions of dollars to back up their claim, but our government must look beyond that figure, to the American people who will be hurt by this lack of action on their part. If these groups have indeed not added video description to their content, they must be made aware of the price of non-compliance. Please do not allow them to use legal rhetoric to delay what must be an inevitable process.

Sincerely,
Tim Keenan

Barbara Vodapive

From: "Tim Keenan" <tkeen@student.umass.edu>
To: <info@ACB.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 1:10 AM
Subject: I Support Video Description

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554.

Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Sir:

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The FCC must recognize the this 11th-hour action by these broadcasting/motion picture groups as a last-ditch attempt to deny me and others like me the experience enjoyed by their sited audience. These big guns might have billions of dollars to back up their claim, but our government must look beyond that figure, to the American people who will be hurt by this lack of action on their part. If these groups have indeed not added video description to their content, they must be made aware of the price of non-compliance. Please do not allow them to use legal rhetoric to delay what must be an inevitable process.

Sincerely,
Tim Keenan

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "MCM" <jennypat@concentric.net>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 12:42 AM
Subject: I Support Video Description

6157 N. Sheridan Rd., 3L
Chicago, IL 60660
February 25, 2002

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 93-339

Dear Mr. Caton:

I hereby go on record as opposing the efforts of the movie, television and cable industries to delay the utilization of video description. We who are visually impaired should be able to access media programming with as much ease as sighted viewers. We have been greatly anticipating the advent of video description this April and see no reason for a delay.

It is time for the entertainment industry to stop stalling and to meet the needs of its visually impaired customers as set out in the Americans with Disabilities Act. The cost is not an undue burden, and the benefits to us are great. The industries' chance in court is ended and it's time for a change.

Please deny the movie, television and cable industries' request for a delay in providing video description and enforce the new regulations as scheduled for April, 2002.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Miller

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Butch Bussen" <butchb@ols.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 12:03 AM
Subject: I support video description

I am totally blind, have been since birth. There is no way I can convey to sighted people how much more we understand and enjoy a television program with descriptive video. Please do not reverse your decision. Please leave your ruling as it stands so we the blind may get the much needed descriptive video programming.

Thank you.

Ronald Bussen

73s

Butch WA0VJR

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Chris Reagan" <spaceodecy2001@hotmail.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 11:49 PM
Subject: I support video discription

Hello

My name is Christopher Reagan and I believe that video discription is important because video discription can tell us about urgent weather reports and can also tell us what's going on in the commercials and television shows sighted people could see. We need the video discription to be a little bit more independent each day. If this patition goes through, it will delay anyone's chances to be indipendent, and to know what is going on around them. I urge you to act emmedietly on this and do the right thing.

Sincerely
Chris Reagan

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapive

From: "Jo Taliaferro" <whitsma@concentric.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Cc: "Charles Crawford" <ccrawford@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 11:35 PM
Subject: I support video

Jo Taliaferro
831 Edna, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Feb. 26, 2002

Secretary Caton
Federal Communications Commission
Dear Mr. Caton,

I am writing to urge you to grant me as an individual, the right to "described programming" in April as promised. I believe it is long past the time when visually impaired people like myself should have equal access to network programming so that we are no longer dependent on others with sight to tell us what is on the TV screen. Please pay no attention to the petition filed this past Friday as it is just another stalling technique and puts blind people in the position of remaining on the back burner while others move forward with digital cable, etc.

I applaud the work of Descriptive Video Service in Boston and California in their efforts to ensure that blind persons have access to the same if not more information than do sighted people and urge you to stand for equal access for those who cannot see a TV screen. It is imperative that programming be available in descriptive format for parents and children, for young and old and for those like myself who have anticipated being able to hear with my ears what I cannot see due to lack of eyesight. Closed captioning has been around for a long time and it is now time for blind persons to know the details of television shows, emergency broadcasts and those unreadable phone numbers which appear "at the bottom of my screen." Imagine yourself unable to see the stunning moments of the Winter Olympics or the action which goes on during the pauses in dialog of your favorite TV show and you will understand why it means so much to me to have PBS stations which provide audio description.

Take blind people out of the age of radio and put us on an equal par with others who have come to demand the big screen, the picture-in-picture and the sharper image. I want opportunity to avail myself of network programming that does not leave me in the dark! Please use your influence and your resources to grant access in April.

Jo Taliaferro

Barbara Vodapive

From: "Karen L. Folsom" <kvfolsom@earthlink.net>
To: <info@acb.org>
Cc: <ccrawford@acb.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2002 5:33 PM
Subject: I Support Video Description

Mr. M. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12TH St. SW
Washington, DC 29554

February 27, 2002

Dear Mr. Caton,

All of the organizations which involve visually impaired and blind individuals have been fighting for audio description for a long time. Now that we are so close, I hear that, according to docket MM 99-339, there is resistance among the cable, movie and broadcast industries. It's too late for that. They should most certainly not be accommodated. It is we, the individuals who are visually impaired and blind, who need to be accommodated. We have every right to watch TV and movies, like everyone else. We are almost there, and there is no time for industries to change their minds. This is what we've been fighting for. It would be nice if we didn't have to "fight" for the right to watch TV. It just goes right along with closed captioning for the deaf. Please help us proceed toward our goal. We all appreciate your help, and we know you'll support us.

Sincerely,
Karen Folsom
715 N. Broadway, Apt. 330
Escondido, CA 92025

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Sylvia Park" <sylviap@provail.org>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:47 PM
Subject: I support video description

5007 Brooklyn Ave. NE
Seattle, WA 98105
February 25, 2002

Attn: Secretary of the FCC

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you to object to the movie, cable, and broadcast industry's non-compliance with the FCC's video description rule. It is imperative for those persons who have in the past been denied access to television and video (the blind and visually impaired) to now have this simple right. I support the requirement that the industry start broadcasting DVS on schedule. I feel it is my duty as a concerned citizen to speak up on the media's grave disregard for a portion of our citizenry. I'd also like to reference MM docket number 99-339. We as citizens will not tolerate the media's failure to comply with FCC regulations by not supplying DVS and view it as socially irresponsible.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Park

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Karyn Campbell" <transadv1@worldnet.att.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:44 PM
Subject: I support video description

460 Raintree ct., 3#K
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
February 25, 2002

To Whom It Concerns:

We in the blindness community, myself included, have been waiting for 15 years for video description on television. Now the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable and Telecommunication Association, and the Motion Picture Association of America are about to attempt to pull this away from us one month before it is to start. How can they do that and call themselves socially responsible? They can't and they must realize it now.

the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and Turner Classic Movies (TCM) make DVS available and no one is complaining about this. It is a mild victory for people who are blind or visually impaired. I would like to see the requirement that at least 4 hours of DVS broadcasting must be carried on network TV go into effect. Blind and visually impaired people are being denied equal access to TV programming every day that this rule is delayed and this is unconscienable and must be stopped. The FCC needs to tell the broadcasters to implement the requirement on schedule, which means immediately. I want equal access to programming and i want it now.

The broadcasters complain about the cost of this requirement. If they are so concerned about the cost then they ccan save money by implementing the requirement rather than spending money to fight the inevitabler. The broadcasters may have a right to waste money but not at the expense of my access to TV programming. I have jsut as much of a right to know what is going on as does someone who is sighted. The broadcasters are being much less than socially responsible here. They in fact are being socially irresponsible and this irresponsibility must end voluntarily or involuntarily. It is their choice how this irresponsibility will end.

The FCC must demand that the requirement be implemented on time with no excuses. They do not want to give in to this greedy monster.

Thank you very much in advance for your time, attention, and resounding denial of the broadcasters' attempt to delay the implementation of DVS longer than it already has been delayed. All I am asking for is equal access to TV programming.

Sincerely,

Karyn Campbell

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Betsey Doane" <k1eic@mindspring.com>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:39 PM
Attach: fcc.doc
Subject: I Support DVS

See attached letter.

2/26/02

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554.

Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Secretary Caton:

I am a blind person who often listens to television for entertainment as well as to keep myself informed about the news of the world. I really need descriptive video service to access the broadcast. It saddens me that the broadcast and movie industries would have people who don't see wait for such needed access with the possibility of being left out altogether.

Please help blind people gain real access to the information others have by insisting on immediate implementation of DVS broadcasts. We are thinking people who deserve to access information!

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth L. Doane
92 Mohegan Rd.
Shelton, CT 06484

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Janelle Olson" <janelleo@dia.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 11:04 PM
Subject: I support video description

Dear Secretary of the FCC:

I am legally blind. I am writing regarding MM docket number 99-339. I object to the request of the movie, cable, and broadcast industry to their asking to get off the hook! You can't just write me off. I have the same right to access as those who are sighted.

Sincerely,

Janelle F. Olson
915 2nd Ave W
Williston ND 58801

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Jim Klein" <jimklein@ictc.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:35 PM
Subject: I support video description. . .

Hi,

I am not especially a big movie or tv fan, but when I do try listening to it, it is very frustrating at times. One can not fill in many blanks when there is nothing said, no description, no sounds that would give us an idea of what is happening. And, naturally, these silences occur most often in the most important areas of shows.

As a blind person, I have for a long time felt that tv and movies have left us out almost completely. And, it is not getting better.

I support having descriptive tv and movies.

Jim Klein
960 19 Avenue S.W.
Valley City, ND 58072-4417
701-845-4349 or 701-490-2324
Jim@KleinOnline.com

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: <mreed@tampabay.rr.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:33 PM
Subject: I support video description

Mr. Secretary,

I am a blind veteran and wholly support MM Docket Number 99-33 which supports the rights of blind and visually impaired persons to have DVS beginning in April 2002.

I feel that it is a travesty that at the last possible moment the powers to be in Hollywood feel that they do not have an obligation to all Americans. We should be able to enjoy visual content as much as possible and DVS goes a long way in giving us an ability that we have never had.

It is not always convenient or possible for us to have a sighted someone around to describe video content to us. With the advent of DVS we, the blind community of America, were for once going to be able to enjoy video in a manor close to our sighted counterparts.

I feel it is an outrage and think that you, as head of the FCC, should enforce what has already been decided to be a step in the right direction in giving the visually impaired persons of this country something they have a right to and should have realistically been enjoying for years.

We are not asking for more than our fair share and again, for the movie and TV industry to, at the eleventh hour, try and opt out of their commitment to we who are visually impaired is an injustice of the highest magnitude.

Although we cannot see TV programming or "watch" movies in the traditional sense we spend millions of our dollars doing just that.

As a blind person and a war wounded veteran I hope that you will carry out the plans of your agency and we will have DVS as scheduled in April.

Thank you kindly for reading my entreaty.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Reed
1030 Fox Hollow Run
Dunedin, FL 34698

mreed@tampabay.rr.com

727 734-0485

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "MOLLIE LAKIN-HAYES" <mlakinhayes@earthlink.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:42 PM
Subject: I support video description

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 15th Street, SW
Washington, DC 29554

Re: MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Mr. Caton:

I send you this urgent request for you not to delay the implementation of the video description rule for the broadcast and film industries.

The implementation of this rule is a basic and vital step in ensuring equal access to television broadcasts and film viewing by all Americans. As a citizen and taxpayer I feel strongly that it is a reasonable responsibility of these industries to comply with the rule as of the intended date. I strongly urge you, my representative to these industries, to require their compliance.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mollie Lakin-Hayes
523 W. Willetta St. #3
Phoenix, AZ 85003

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Rebecca Kragnes" <rebeccak@tcq.net>
To: <info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:16 PM
Attach: FCC letter.txt
Subject: we support video description

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 15th Street, SW
Washington, DC 29554

Dear Secretary Caton:

We are writing in regards to MM Docket number 99-339. this regulation is important to blind citizens like us who look forward to having full access to television. We have heard that the cable, broadcast, and movie industries have asked that the implementation of the regulation be postponed until after a related court appeal has been decided. this, despite the fact that these industries have already been given an extension from the original date of compliance.

We feel strongly that this regulation should go into effect, as scheduled, this April. The technological and financial resources exist to give blind people access through audio description. We find it ironic that the greed of the cable, broadcast, and movie industries may prevent their accruing greater profit which would result from increased viewership.

As tax payers and consumers, we should have the same right as anyone else to enjoy movies, television programming, and other media productions. We ask that you continue to support the rights of all Americans -- including those with visual impairments -- to access educational and entertainment opportunities. thank you.

Sincerely,

Philip & Rebecca Kragnes
3515 Pleasant Avenue south #4
Minneapolis, MN 55408-4343
pkragnes@tcq.net
rebeccak@tcq.net

2/26/02

Barbara Vodapive

From: "Barbara Lombardi" <k1eir@worldnet.att.net>
To: <info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 10:12 PM
Subject: I Support Video Description

Mr. William Catton, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission: Dear Mr. Catton: Re: 339-390: I am writing to express my outrage and disappointment concerning the action of the NAB and the Cable Industry to delay and hinder the implementation of descriptive video for the blind and visually impaired. As a totally blind person who watches television, I find this action most disturbing! There are countless numbers of men and women who cannot see and would benefit significantly from video description. Senior citizens who have lost their sight are certainly hindered from getting information that could be most beneficial and important. Entertainment is a significant part of our life here in the U.S. and those of us who cannot view the screen are not given the opportunity to enjoy the programming to the fullest extent. I strongly urge the FCC to move forward with this program of video description and to begin its implementation as scheduled.

Barbara Lombardi, 212 Soundview Ave., Shelton, CT 06484

2/26/02